sent their comments. Why are we sitting here and what are we supposed to do? Will the Minister, therefore, please tell us whether there is any time-limit for consultation or it will go on? Or, perhaps they are leaving it to the next Cabinet that is coming! What is the idea?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, it is very much concerned with the State Governments. "Medics" is also looked after by the State Governments. From our side we will try our best to expedite and get the comments from the State Governments.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I want a time-limit. What is your reply?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, we cannot give a time-limit because it is very much concerned with the State Governments. As soon as we get the comments from the State Governments, we will take a view on it because the Council concerns the State Governments also.

SHRI CATURANAN MISHRA: What will happen if there is no reply from them? Suppose there is no reply from the State Governments. Then nothing will be done on this. Are we to conclude that way? After all, what is going to happen? Something should be decided about that. Some procedure should be there. This question will be over now. Again, the Members will take up the same thing. So, I want to know whether any time-limit is there, what the procedure is and whether the Minister will take any personal initiative to talk to the State Governments and get the matter finalised.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, I share the concern expressed by the honourable Member. The matter should not be kept pending for any length of time. We will remind the State Governments and expedite the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 209. Mr. Ahluwalia.

*209. [*The questioner (Shri S. S. Ahluwalia) was absent. For answer vide col. .... infra*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 210. Mr. Digvijay Singh.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जी० आर० पी० द्वारा मनमानी/ज्यादती किए जाने के संबंध में शिकायतें

*210. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह† :**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जी० आर० पी० द्वारा की जाने वाली मनमानी/ज्यादती के संबंध में सरकार को जनता से कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उन शिकायतों के आधार पर सम्बद्ध अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कोई कार्यवाही की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान जी० आर० पी० के निर्धारित कार्य की समीक्षा की है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है;

(च) क्या सरकार का जी० आर० पी० द्वारा यात्रियों/स्थानीय लोगों के साथ की जा रही ज्यादती को रोकने के लिए कोई कारगर उपाय करने का विचार है; और

(छ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the Government Railway Police at the Railway Station functions under the control of the State Government concerned, and therefore complaints received from the public against Government Railway Police are being forwarded to the concerned G.R.P. Authorities for necessary action.

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री दिग्विजय सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया ।

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Close coordination is being maintained with the GRP authorities of various States at different levels in order to check such instances. Whenever any instance of excesses/high handedness committed by GRP personnel comes to notice, the same is referred to the concerned GRP authorities for taking remedial measures.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : सभापति जी, एक अजीब परम्परा इस सरकार की तरफ से चलाई जा रही है। कोई भी सवाल पूछा जाय तो उसका जवाब आता है कि राज्य से संबंधित मामला है, इसलिए केन्द्रीय सरकार इस पर जवाब देने को तैयार नहीं है। अगर राज्य से मामला संबंधित था तो केन्द्रीय सरकार उसका जवाब देने के लिए इस संसद का समय बर्बाद ही क्यों करती है। उसको सीधा कह देना चाहिए कि इसका कोई मतलब हम से नहीं है, इसका जवाब हम नहीं देंगे। लेकिन जब क्वेश्चन एक बार तारांकित किया जाता है इसलिए कि उसका जवाब वह दे। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि जो जवाब मंत्री महोदय द्वारा दिया गया है वह किस मायने में दिया गया है। अगर जी० आर० पी० के बारे में जो हमारा सवाल है वह राज्य सरकार से संबंधित सवाल है तो आपको कहना चाहिए था कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास कोई ऐसी चीज नहीं है जिसका जवाब दिया जा सके।

सभापति जी, इसमें मैंने 5 सवाल पूछे हैं, एक का जवाब इसमें नहीं मिला है गोलमाल जवाब सरकारी पदाधिकारियों द्वारा जो तैयार किया जाता है—मंत्री जी कभी देखना चाहते नहीं हैं और यहां जवाब देने आ गये हैं। अगर आपने पढ़ा होता—मेरा सवाल क्या है और आप जवाब क्या दे रहे हैं, अगर आप सवाल पढ़े होते तो शायद संसद में आप यह जवाब न देते होते।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you something specific to say ?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, I need your protection.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Sir, no part of the question has been replied to. Kindly go through the question and the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you reiterate it and ask so that the Minister can specifically answer

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, I need your protection. You also please go through the answer and then tell the Minister what to do. I just request you to go through my question and the answer. What proper answer has he given to me ? I just need your protection, Sir. He has not answered ever a single point which I raised. I raised live points—(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). He did not answer even a single one. He just said that this is a State subject and so that the Government of India is not taking action. How can I put a supplementary, Sir ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : It is becoming a regular affair with them, Sir.

SHRI K. C. LENKA : Sir, we have no control over the functions of the GRP.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : If you don't give reply to my question, then we do you waste wour time, my time and of the House ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. C. LENKA : Sir, from time to time, we are taking up these things with the State Governments, and we are monitoring at the Zonal level and at the Board level, and also we are having discussions with the State Government officials about this. Under the present Constitutional provision, it is for the State Government.. (*Interruptions*) It is the duty of the GRP at the station.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, I need your protection. What has the Railways to do with the State Government ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The GRP is under the administration of the State Government. This is what the Minister says.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : If the crime is committed at the railway station, the railway station is the property of the Railway Ministry.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will the Minister clarify the legal position, the Constitutional provision so that the House can know what it is ?

SHRI K. C. LENKA : Sir, I have already clarified that under the Constitutional provision, we have no control over the GRP. If there is any harassment or any incident in the area, we have to inform the GRP authorities to look into it. And our position is only to monitor these cases and to discuss with them periodically about the progress, about what recommendation has been given to them and what action they have taken. From 1990 to 1992 we have referred 109 cases to the GRP authorities. And also we are discussing periodically about the results.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you a supplementary to ask ? Don't go on the same ground. You please ask a supplementary if you have one.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : He did not reply to my basic question. What can I ask as a supplementary ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, may I go to the other Member ? Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : सभापति जी, मैंने स्पेसिफिक पूछा है कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में आपने कितनी बार मीटिंग की, क्या मानेटरिंग की। इसका जवाब आया है कि मैंने बातचीत की है। मैं स्पैसिफिक पूछ रहा हूं कि गत तीन वर्षों में कितनी बार मीटिंग हुई और कितने केसेज आपके सामने आये हैं तो इसका जवाब तो हमें मिलना चाहिये।

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : He should know how many meetings he has had.

SHRI K. C. LENKA : Sir, I am equally concerned as the hon. Members are because there are cases where there was no action, and in some cases, there is delay in action. So far as the Railways is concerned...

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : How many meetings you had ? I am just asking a specific question.

SHRI K. C. LENKA : I am coming to that. I fully share the concern which you expressed. Sometimes, the Railways is put in an embarrassing position because we are referring the cases to the State Governments and we are not getting any reply from them. Sometimes we are also in an embarrassing position. I am equally concerned with it. Whenever there was any recommendation made, we referred it to the State Government to do the needful.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : My specific question is whether the Government has reviewed the duties assigned to the GRP during the last three years.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : Sir, the problem is not of meetings or number of cases. I am telling you the fact. As everybody knows, the Government Railway Police is not under the control of the Railways. It is also true that the Railway Ministry shares 50 per cent of the cost for it. In fact, I was wanting to have an opportunity—the Home Minister is also present here—to sort out that problem. Even from the State Administration, any official posted to the Railway Police is a rejected officer. This is true.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI : This is true of the Government of India also where... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : A number of my friends who are here, have served the State Government in one capacity or the other and they know that a man posted in the Railway Police, is an unwanted man in the State Government.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : No, Sir, it is not true of the entire Railway Police. There are very good people also. Therefore, he should not say like that. He can say that some of them are like that, not all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us face the facts as they are.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have seen myself. There are very good Railway Police people. So he should not make a blanket statement that they are all rejected people. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHANKER DAYAL SINGH : I don't agree with the Minister because I know of Bihar. There is one DIG of Railway Protection Force, Mr. Ramchandra Khan. I know he is one of the most brilliant and capable persons in Bihar Government. So I don't agree with the answer of the Minister at all.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is like saying that all Ministers in the Government are an incompetent material. This is not true. Mr. Jaffer Sharief is a very good Minister. He can say some of them are not good, and not all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us allow the Railway Minister to clarify.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : I am very happy and we are really proud of such officers who are very helpful. But in spite of what Shri Shankar Dayal Singh said, there are lots of complaints from Bihar. That is the problem.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Bihar is generally in bad shape.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : The problem is that although we have brought an amendment to the Act relating to the Railway Protection Force which looks after the Railway property and Railway premises, the fact remains that it does not have the powers to prosecute or take any action to prevent crimes that are being committed either on the trains or on the platforms. This is exactly our problem. We are trying our best to have a dialogue with the State Government and whatever cases come to our notice, we refer these to them. It is a continuous process. I think, perhaps, it may be necessary to have a meeting at a higher level where I must seek the help and assistance of the Home Minister also. Perhaps we may be able to improve the situation.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : The Railways have been functioning only as a post office, receiving complaints from the public and transmitting them to the State Governments. Part (d) of the question is whether Government have reviewed the duties assigned to GRP during the last three years and the reply is that they have made no review. My question is whether Railway Ministry is prepared to appoint a Review Committee to go through all the complaints received by it and transmitted to the State Governments.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, the Consultative Committee of the Railway Ministry has constituted three study groups and each group is looking after various aspects of the functioning of the Railways.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : सभापति महोदय .... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : यह भी बिहार के हैं ।

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : इसलिए मैं सब से पहले रिकार्ड स्ट्रेट करना चाहूंगा । हमारे मित्र शंकर दयाल सिंह जी ने ठीक कहा कि राम चन्द्र खान बहुत अच्छे आफिसर हैं लेकिन चूंकि बिहार सरकार से उनकी पटरी ठीक नहीं बैठती है, इसलिए उनको रेलवे में भेंज दिया गया है । शायद उनको मालूम नहीं है यह एक डंपिंग ग्राउंड है **(व्यवधान)** मैं इनकी जानकारी करा देना चाहता हूं । इसलिए यह बात मंत्री महोदय ने सही कही है कि जो अनवांटेड होते हैं उनकी जी० आर० पी० में पोस्टिंग कर दी जाती है, उसमें इफीशियंसी और अनइफीशियंसी की बात नहीं है । रेलवे स्टेशनों पर स्थापित रेलवे और रेलवे यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए जी० आर० पी० की स्थापना की गई है। यदि छानबीन की जाए तो रेलवे में हो रही चोरियों या क्राइम में एक हिस्सा जी० आर० पी० का भी होता है ।

श्री दयानन्द सहाय : एक हिस्सा 90 परसेंट ।

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : जो भी हो आपको ज्यादा जानकारी है । इन्होंने पिछले तीन

सालों के क्राइम के आंकड़े भी दिये हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा जब यह 50 परसेंट कास्ट दे ही रहे हैं और गृह मंत्रालय से कुछ मांग कर ही रहे हैं तो क्या मंत्री महोदय एक इंडिपेंडेंट अथारिटी स्थापित करने का विचार कर रहे हैं, अगर कर रहे हैं तो इसके लिए क्या पहल आगे करेंगे, यह सदन को बताना चाहेंगे ?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, this is not such a subject that we can just easily pass on like this. If the railways contemplate such a move, perhaps, it may become very difficult. We cannot get the support of the civil services at the State level. Having an independent authority for such a big force spread throughout the length and breadth of the country may not be a very good proposition. Law and order responsibility, I do not think, railways can take up. But we will continue to improve our relationship and working methods, having a dialogue with the State Governments.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : जी० आर० पी० को हटाकर उसको खत्म कर दीजिए और दे दीजिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को ही ।

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, the hon. Minister is correct, technically. But the problem remains. Railways cannot absolve themselves of the responsibility of protecting the passengers and their luggage. They cannot throw it on the State Governments. Various committees had gone into this question earlier. Railways are also paying 50 per cent of the expenses on the G.R.P. There was a suggestion that railways should have a unified force, combining and G.R.P. and the R.P.F. The question of co-ordination with the State Governments is not difficult at all. When the B.S.F., the C.R.P.F., the Army and various other forces are able to co-ordinate with the State Governments, why cannot the railway police co-ordinate with the State Governments ? Therefore, the only solution for the railways is to take full responsibility for the safety of the passengers as well as the railway premises. Will the hon. Minister consider that again ?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, as hon. Members would have noticed, in the recent Budget, to take care of this kind of a problem, we even went to the extent of announcing an insurance scheme to cover not only the passengers, but also some of the railway employees, who may suffer not because of any accident, but because of robbery and other sorts of crimes. I agree with what the hon. Member has said. We will explore the possibility of trying to see how best railways can interact with the State Governments and how we can go about it. But, to tell you frankly, in the RPF, some of the officers of the State civil services are on deputation with the railways, who co-ordinate with the State Governments. This is what I said before. Again, we will try. We will see how best we are able to have a dialogue with the State Governments and improve our working relationship. There is another aspect. Earlier, one of the senior officers of the railways used to write their confidential reports. But the police are independent. They do not like it. Therefore, there is no area where we have control over them. They are under the State Governments. This is one problem because we are sharing the cost.

Another thing is, unfortunately, at the State level, the legislators do not know that the railways are sharing 50 per cent of the cost and that it remains the responsibility of the State Governments. If such questions as are put here are put in the State Assemblies, to the Ministers there, the working can improve a lot. This is exactly another method which we may have to explore and some control will have to be brought about on the GRP. Improved coordination between the RPF and the GRP is necessary. We will do whatever is necessary from our side.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, जी० आर० पी० द्वारा जनता के साथ की जाने वाले ज्यादती एक बहुत गम्भीर समस्या है, लेकिन प्रश्न के भाग "ख" का यह जवाब देकर कि जी० आर० पी० राज्य सरकारों के नियंत्रण में है, मंत्री जी ने अपने आपको बरी करने की कोशिश की है।

सभापति जी, हम लोग जो राज्य सरकारों में मंत्री रहे हैं, यह जानते हैं कि संसद में

बीसियों सवाल ऐसे पूछे जाते हैं, जिसकी सूचना राज्य सरकारों द्वारा इकट्ठी की जाती है और इसलिये प्रश्न पूछने की अवधि दस दिन रखी गई है, ताकि राज्य सरकारों से भी अगर आंकड़ा मंगाया जाना हो, तो मंगाया जा सके।

मैं, मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि प्रश्न के भाग "क" का जवाब मांगने के लिये क्या उन्होंने राज्य सरकारों से यह आंकड़ा प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की कि राज्य सरकारों के पास ऐसी कोई शिकायतें आई हैं, क्या, जिसमें जी० आर० पी० ने मनमानी की है और वह आंकड़ा उनको मिला क्या, या उन्होंने कोशिश ही नहीं की, राज्य सरकारों को लिखा ही नहीं यह आंकड़े प्राप्त करने के लिये– यह मेरा सीधा सवाल है कि क्या राज्य सरकारों से उन्होंने यह आंकड़े प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की, क्योंकि बहुत से सवाल संसद में पूछे जाते हैं, जिसके आंकड़े राज्य सरकारें देती हैं और दस दिन के अन्दर वह आंकड़े आ जाते हैं।

SHRI K. C. LENKA : The following number of complaints were received and sent to the State Governments :

Central Zone, 14 in 1989-90 23 in 1990-91, in 1991-92...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैं यह नहीं पूछ रही हूं ... **(व्यवधान)** प्रश्न के भाग "क" का ... **(व्यवधान)** :

SHRI K. C. LENKA : These are the complaints received by us. These are the cases of complaints we have received and recommended to the State Governments.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This is what I am saying. I am not asking this, Mr. Minister.

मैंने यह पूछा है कि इसका जवाब आप को राज्य सरकारों से मिल सकता था कि उनके पास सीधी कितनी शिकायतें पहुंची।

I am asking how many complaints the State Government received directly and not the number which you recommended to the State Government. This information could be collected from the State Governments directly. Did you ask the State Governments as to how many complaints they received in regard to the GRP ? This is my question and not how many complaints you recommended. How many complaints did the State Governments receive directly ?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : The question is regarding the excesses committed by GRP. We have sent the following complaints : Haryana, 2 in 1991 and 5 in 1992. Delhi, 2. Punjab 1 in 1991 and 4 in 1992. Uttar Pradesh 6 in 1991 and 9 in 1992. The total comes to 31. Bihar, 4 in 1992. Madhya Pradesh 5. Rajasthan, there is nothing except one in 1991. Maharashtra 4. West Bengal 4. (*Interruptions*). Andhra Pradesh 1.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : यह जो आप आंकड़ा पढ़ रहे हैं, यह राज्य सरकारों ने भेजा है। ... **(व्यवधान)**।

श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ : यह हमने भेजा है।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैं यह नहीं पूछ रही हूं। टोटल शिकायतें ... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ : उनसे हमें मिला नहीं। उनसे लेकर हम आपको दे देंगे।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उनसे आपने पूछा क्या, जानने की कोशिश की क्या?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Please bear with me.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री : श्रीमान् यह सीधा सवाल है। ... **(व्यवधान)**

AN HON. MEMBER : We are bearing with you.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : You will have to. The question is regarding the excesses committed by GRP. Generally, people believe that it is the respon-

sibility of the Railways. They write to us and we in turn write to the State authorities about the complaints that are received by us.

About the question of the hon. Member whether we have asked the State Governments, I am sorry, that information is not available. We will collect and place it before the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You ask the State Governments as to how many complaints they have received. That will give the cumulative data.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : All right, we will do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Obviously, all the complaints come through the Railways.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Sir, may I divert a little ? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir,..... ...(*Interruptions*)... It has crossed its limits. This is a most extraordinary situation.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Sir, the details provided by the answer are only symptomatic of the underlying disease, which is gross insensitivity to basic human rights. Very recently, the hon. Prime Minister has highlighted this aspect while addressing some of the para-military forces. Whether it is the Railway Protection Force, or the GRP working under the different State Governments, or other para-military forces or even the Army, actually a time has come when we should give to all these law-enforcing agencies—against whom there are allegations of excesses—a certain training and education in basic human rights. I want to know from the Railway Minister whether he can cooperate with the State Governments to see that that kind of minimum training and education in basic human rights are imparted to the G.R. Police.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, I assure our fullest cooperation with the State Governments. In fact, this is one of the areas where a lot of improvements are needed.

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY : Sir, there are two organizations working parallel in the railways for the prevention of crime One is the GRP and the other is the RPF. The RPF works under the "Railway Property Unlawful Possession Act"—RPUP—Act and the GRP works under different State Governments under different Crime Prevention Acts, but both these organizations are engaged more in looting and harassing people than in protecting the railway property. I would like to ask the Minister if he would honestly agree that most of the people who are heading these two organizations are people rejected by the State Governments—corrupt people—but they are there. So I would like to ask whether the Minister would agree to announcing the appointment of a Commission so that these two organizations are merged together and the railways have only one crime prevention organization, whatever name you give it. Let us not have two organizations overlapping each other and which, instead of protection, are all the time engaged in wagon-breaking, looting and harassing the public at the railway stations. Therefore, I would like the Minister to assure the House that there would be only one organization to lookafter the functions of both these organizations.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, as the hon. Member has said, sometime back that kind of complaints had come and, as I have said before, we will discuss this with the Home Ministry and the State Governments and then we will take whatever measures are required to be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pasumpon Tha. Kiruttinan.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN :* Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the hon. Minister knows Tamil, I would like to ask my question in Tamil. The Railway Police is in a way, a neglected class. Even efficient Railway Police officials who do not toe the line of the concerned State Government, are transferred too often.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No translation ! ..(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : May be the Minister knows Tamil but, for the benefit of the House, would you please put your question

*English translation of supplementary put in Tamil.

either in Hindi or in English ? . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Why not in Tamil, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask, but I am asking you for the benefit of the House . . . (*Interruptions*) . .

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Why can't it be in Tamil, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Because there is no translation.

. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Must be provided, must be provided !

. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Sir, why can't there be translation for Tamil ? You can have translation for questions also—why not ? . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . Some of our Members cannot speak either in English or in Hindi. So, some arrangements can be made for putting questions in Tamil. Some of our Members are not able to express themselves in English or in Hindi. Then should they be prevented from asking questions in Tamil ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I understand it and I sympathize with you, but you have to follow the normal rules.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : There should be an opportunity to ask questions in all the official languages. Question Hour is a very important hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Develoment of Paradip Port

*202. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (A.D.B.) has agreed to finance the Ministry's proposal for providing assistance for the development of Paradip Port; and

(b) if so, what are the details of follow-up action taken so far, to execute the development proposals at Paradip Port with the said assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of $ 285 million for the Paradip-Ennore Coal Transportation project which includes $ 134.85 million for creation of mechanised coal handling facilities at Paradip.

(b) The proposal is at advanced stage of consideration and a decision is expected very soon.

Commission on Sustainable Development Following Earth Summit

*203. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Commission on Sustainable Development has been set up as a follow-up of the Earth Summit held last June;

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference; and

(c) what is the programme of action of Government of India ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In pursuance of paragraph 38.11 of Agenda-21, and UNGA resolution 47/191, a high level Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established as a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Article 68 of the UN Charter. The CSD will monitor progress and effective follow-up of the Rio conference, enhanced international cooperation on environment and development issues and examine the implementation of Agenda-21 at the naional, regional and international level.

(c) The national conservation strategy and policy statement on Environment and Development has been enunciated in June 1992. Agenda-21 has been included in the programme of action of concerned Ministries. The Government will work actively